

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 MCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 PC-01 /110 W

-----060149 261749Z /43

R 251113Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3315

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 3287

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, GH

SUBJ: STRIKES FIZZLE OUT

REF: ACCRA 3169

1. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE VISIBLE ACTION HERE SINCE GOG STATEMENT ON ARREST OF OPPOSITION LEADERS (REFTEL). STRIKES APPEAR TO HAVE FIZZLED OUT DESPITE PROFESSIONALS' CONTINUING UNHAPPINESS WITH ACHEAMPONG REGIME; OPPONENTS HAVE BEEN INTIMIDATED BY PROSPECT OF ENDING UP BEHIND BARS. WE BELIEVE THAT, SUBJECT TO SOME LOCAL EXCEPTIONS, MOST DOCTORS AND NURSES ARE BACK ON THE JOB, AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT OF HANDLING EMERGENCY CASES. SOME LAWYERS ARE STILL ON STRIKE BUT THEIR SERVICES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE MISSED VERY MUCH. ENGINEERS, WHO CONTROL SUPPLIES OF ELECTRICITY, WATER AND GASOLINE, NEVER DID WALK OUT, DESPITE RUMORS
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THAT THEY MIGHT. SOME UNIVERSITY TEACHERS AND MANY STUDENTS ARE STILL NOT WORKING. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA (LEGON) HAS CEASED TO FUNCTION ACADEMICALLY AND UNLESS CLASSES RESUME VERY SOON, WHOLE ACADEMIC YEAR WILL HAVE TO BE WRITTEN OFF AS LOST. HOWEVER, CLASSES HAVE BEEN HELD ONLY INTERMITTENTLY SINCE JANUARY 13 DEMONSTRATIONS AND REGIME DOES NOT APPEAR UNDULY TROUBLED BY SITUATION.

2. ONE MIMEOGRAPHED HANDOUT SENT TO US IN MAIL. PROBABLY BY A RADICAL STUDENT GROUP, CALLS FOR A GENERAL STRIKE ON MAY 1. AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT PLANS FOR SUCH A STRIKE ARE UNDERWAY AND WE THINK HANDOUT REPRESENTS ONLY WISHFUL THINKING BY SOME OF ACHEAMPONG'S MORE BETTER CRITICS. ACCRA, RECENTLY DRENCHED BY TWO DAYS OF HEAVY RAIN, SEEMS TO BE BACK IN ITS USUAL SOMNOLENT STATE. PROSPECTS FOR OVERT POLITICAL ACTION HERE SEEM TO HAVE RECEDED OVER THE LAST WEEK. POSS)BLY FORMATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, INITIALLY SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL, MAY STIR UP THE POT A BIT, UNLESS BIRTH OF THIS NEW GROUP IS DELAYED BY BEHAND-THE-SCENES PROTESTS AGAINST ARREST OF OPPOSITION LEADERS. SMITH

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Message Attributes

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